



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7670 | FAX (517) 373.5958

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/sanborn/

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Contact: Scott Ray
(888) 353-2526

Water Quality Monitoring Money Needed

But Did the Governor Need to Drive to S.E. MI to Deliver it?

LANSING – While Gov. Jennifer Granholm appeared at a press conference today, to pass-out ceremonial checks for water quality monitoring, the (former) Governor, who actually signed the budget, and the legislators who actually developed the legislation creating the appropriation were nowhere in sight.

“This money was approved, last year, by then Gov. John Engler and the legislature,” state Sen. Alan Sanborn pointed out. “For the new governor, who was attorney general at the time the \$2.5 million dollars for water quality monitoring was appropriated, to bring her media machine to Macomb County for a ceremonial check presentation is like doing an end zone dance when you weren’t even on the field when the points were scored.”

“As for the \$700,000 of new money – that’s what is left after Governor Granholm vetoed more than half of the \$1.7 million that the House delegation and I worked so hard to put into the DEQ budget for the coming year.”

Granholm and Department of Environmental Quality Director Steven Chester presented ceremonial checks to Macomb County officials at Metro Beach, today. The fact that most of the money was appropriated before she became governor didn’t seem to phase her, nor did the fact that she had recently vetoed \$1 million intended to expanded water quality monitoring efforts in Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River watershed.

“This is the same thing she did when she cut 34 road projects from the Transportation budget,” Sanborn said. “The Governor cut the projects, the legislature fought to have many of them restored – then the Governor went out and did photo-ops